purpose of erecting and adorning the edifice. The staircase and ceilings were painted by Rousseu and Le Fosse; the Apotheosis of Iris and the Assembly of the Gods were by the latter. His Grace's second wife was the mad Duchess of Albemarle, widow to Christopher, second Duke of that title. She married her second husband as Emperor of China, which gave occasion to a scene in Cibber's play of "*The Sick Lady Cured.*" She was kept in the ground apartment during his Grace's life, and was served on the knee to the day of her death, which happened in 1734 at Newcastle House, Clerkenwell, at the age of 96. The second Duke and Duchess lived only in one of the wings till their house at Whitehall was completed.

The site of Montague House was a square, inclosed by a high brick wall, which excluded a view of the house in every direction. At each corner was a turret, and over the great arch of entrance a cupola (containing a clock), as shewn in the views already published in THE BUILDER. On the south side of the court-yard is still existing, within the gate, a colonnade of the Ionic order. The Museum, as represented in the cut, consists of a building about 216 feet in length and 57 feet in height to the top of the cornice; and the ascent to the house is by three flights of stone steps, the centre of which leads to the hall. The paintings on the staircase represent Cæsar and his military retinue; in a compartment are the feasts and sacrifices of Bacchus; on the ceiling is represented the story of Phaeton. At the time the mansion was purchased it was in a very delapidated condition in consequence of having been many years untenanted. On its west side was a flower-garden and a terrace, disposed with much taste, and shaded by numbers of flowering trees and shrubs, and this communicating with a lawn on the north that was bounded by the fields and terminated by the view of Highgate, Hampstead, and the intermediate country.

On the west side of the lawn was a double avenue of lime trees, and in the front of the building a fine fountain.

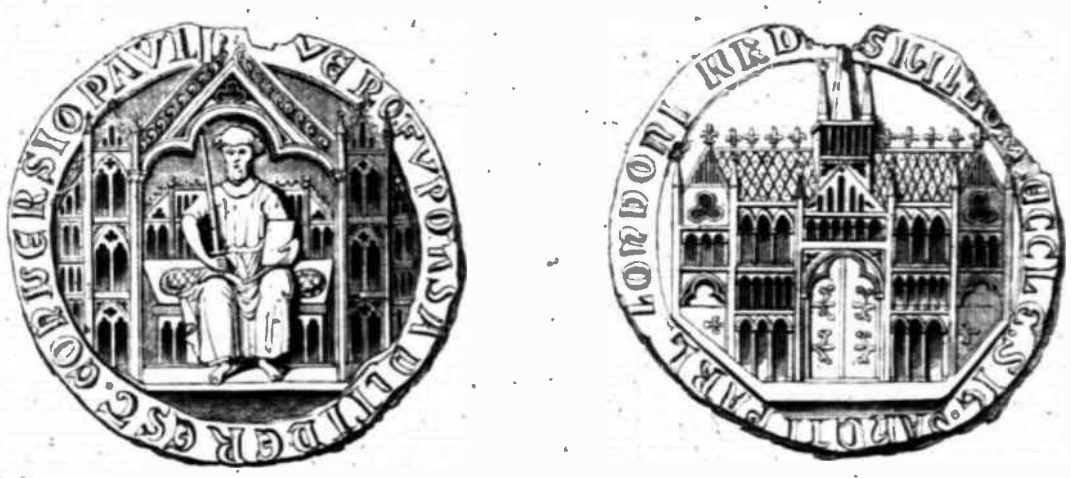
George II. gave the whole of the library of printed books and manuscripts which had been gradually collected by our kings from Henry VII. to William III. George III. gave a numerous collection of pamphlets. In 1824 the valuable and extensive library formed under the direction of George III. was presented by George IV.

Vast additions have been made to the original building during the present century, and in a year or two every vestige of the old house will have disappeared, the façade of new the buildings being already in a forward state.

There is some fine carving at the principal doorway leading from the noble flight of steps to the entrance hall, and the door itself is curiously inlaid: the brackets of the principal external cornice of the house may be perhaps worth imitating on some occasion, and at any rate deserve to be admitted among a collection. The great staircase of the mansion is with its manifold curtail, its iron work, its paintings and other decoration, worthy of admiration; as are the chimney-stacks, the inlaid floors, and the other finishings of the extensive pile.

Of some of these we hope to preserve memorials.

* * * *



SEAL OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF ST. PAUL'S, LONDON.

SIR,—The seal, a copy of which I send to you, is attached to the surrender, by Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, to the Crown, of the manors of Stepney and Hackney, 4th Edward VI. (1549-50) in the Augmentation-office.

It is not engraved in "Dugdale's History of St. Paul's," nor is it noticed in the "Monasticon," but there is a very fair impression of it among a collection of original seals in the British Museum.

On the obverse is the representation of the front elevation of the church of St. Paul, with the following legend round it:—SIGILLUM: ECCLESIE: SANCTI: PAULI: LONDONIARUM. (The seal of the Church of St. Paul, London.)

On the reverse St. Paul is represented seated under an architectural canopy, holding in his right hand a sword, and in his left a book, with the legend following round it: MUCRO: FUROR: SAULI: LIBER: EST: CONVERSIO: PAULI (The sword is the fury of Saul; the book the conversion of Paul).

Hackney. M. A. G.

AN ACT FOR REGULATING THE CONSTRUCTION AND THE USE OF BUILDINGS IN THE METROPOLIS AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

CLAUSE 1, after reciting the defects in the existing laws for the accomplishment of the objects contemplated by the present Act, proceeds:—

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Operation of Act—Statutes repealed.

Now for all the several purposes above mentioned, and for the purpose of consolidating the provisions of the law relating to the construction and the use of buildings in the metropolis and its neighbourhood, be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that with regard to this Act generally, so far as relates to the operation thereof in reference to time, it shall come into operation at the following times; (that is to say,) as to the districts and the officers to be appointed in pursuance hereof on the first day of *September* next, and as to the buildings, streets, and other matters on the first day of *January* one thousand eight hundred and forty-five; and that on the said first day of *January* all the Acts mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, except so far as in the said schedule is provided, shall be and are hereby repealed.

Construction of Terms—Street—Alley—Square—Floor—Story—External Wall—Party-wall—Already built—Hereafter to be built—Parish—Owner—Official Referees—Surveyor—The Surveyor—Month—The Commissioners of Works and Buildings—Justice of Peace—Local Officers—Singular and Plural—Masculine and Feminine—Corporate Body.

2. And be it declared, with regard to this Act generally, so far as relates to the construction of certain terms and expressions used therein, that the following terms and expressions are intended to have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, so far as such meanings are not excluded by the context, or by the nature of the subject-matter; (that is to say,)

The word "street" to include every square, circus, crescent, street, road, place, row, mews, lane, or place along which carriages can pass or are intended to pass, and that whether there be or be not, in addition to the carriageway, a footway, paved or otherwise;

The word "alley" to include any court, alley, passage, or other public place which can be used as a footway only:

The word "square," as applied to any area of building, to contain one hundred superficial feet:

The word "floor" to mean the horizontal platform forming the base of any story, and to include the timber or bricks or any other substance constituting such platform:

The word "story" to include the full thickness of such floor, as well as the space between the upper surface of one floor and the under surface of the floor next above it; or if there be no floor, then the space between the surface of the ground and the under surface of the floor next above it:

The term "external wall" to apply to every outer wall of buildings now built or hereafter to be built, which (excepting the footing thereof on one side) shall stand wholly upon ground of the owner of such buildings, and shall not be used or intended to be used as a party-wall under the definition hereinafter contained, whether the same shall adjoin or not to other outer or to party-walls

The term "party-wall" to apply to every wall which shall be used, or be built in order to be used, as a separation of two or more buildings with a view to the occupation thereof by different families, or which shall be actually occupied by different families, and also every wall which shall stand upon ground not wholly belonging to the same owner to a greater extent than the projection of its footing on one side:

The term "already built," used in reference to buildings, to apply to buildings built before the first day of *January* one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, or commenced before that day, and covered in and rendered fit for use within twelve months thereafter; and, used in reference to streets and alleys, to apply to all streets or alleys made or laid out before that day, and which shall be formed and rendered fit for use within twelve months thereafter:

The term "hereafter to be built," used in reference to buildings, to apply to all buildings to be built or commenced after the first day of *January* one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, or which, being commenced, shall not be covered in within twelve

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